

Banbury Tennis Leagues

Secretary's Report (V2)

8th October 2011

The Summer League was completed on time by the 29th September 2011 so I am pleased to submit my first report to the member clubs.

1. Fixtures:

As most will know, this is my first year as League Secretary. I've never done anything like it before, not even acted as a Match Secretary for a Club so there was bound to be mistakes. Sometimes I made basic errors that an experienced person would not have made.

I have been particularly helped by the previous League Secretary, Jackie Robinson, Sue Jelfs of Banbury West End, June Ward of Deddington, League Treasurer, Trevor Stevens, League Chairman, Colin Mercer and my wife, Bronwyn.

So please don't blame me, blame them :)

I know that my first attempt at arranging fixtures for the 2011 Summer League fell short in a number of areas. Some teams had a very uneven spread of fixtures.

In addition there were initially a few errors such as fixture duplication and omission for which I apologise to the afflicted clubs and hope that it did not inconvenience you too much.

My criteria for arranging fixtures are:

1. play home matches on your designated home match nights
2. no matches on weekends and Bank Holidays
3. no team should play more than once in any calendar week
4. even spread of fixture dates (home and away)
5. avoid home matches before 12th May for those teams without floodlights

Please give me feedback on whether or not these criteria meet your requirements.

At first, no completion date for the fixtures was specified but this was rectified during the season. In June I became concerned about potential fixture congestion and panicked a bit; however, all Divisions completed their fixtures in time.

Division 1 was especially impressive as the teams completed all their fixtures without a single cancellation or reschedule. Thanks!

2. Website:

The new website was designed to be easier to use, faster in operation and uses standard file formats.

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It is hosted by my own web hosting service at no charge to the League.

Clickable links have been added to club match venues on the 'Captains' pages that bring up a Google map of the venue (e.g. <http://tinyurl.com/banbury>). Please try them if you haven't already. Clubs may find them useful on their own sites and literature.

Promotion and Relegation places are colour coded on the Tables pages.

The old site still shows up in Google searches so it would be good to discontinue it's use or at least to remove the data but I have been unable to get the information from the previous match secretary to enable me to do so.

3. Match Cards:

Most Team Captains found the new interactive match card convenient and easy to use; a couple of people had initial finger trouble but soon worked it out.

Match Cards are now posted online accessible via links on the Fixtures/Results pages. This has proved very popular and I hope that the easy availability of information will avoid misunderstanding and confusion that may have occurred previously.

An upload button was added to the site a couple of weeks into the Summer League Season as a few people were unable to use their emails to send match cards. This worked well as demonstrated by that fact that about 80% of cards are now sent via this method, the rest by email.

4. Updating:

My goal is to post match cards and update the Fixtures/Results and Tables on the day the cards arrive. I hope that this will encourage Team Captains to send their cards quickly. However, there are a few that are still slow and need chasing.

Cards are highlighted on the website as 'due' after 7 days and 'overdue' after 10. After 14 days I start chasing by email.

It became apparent a few weeks into the season that it would be desirable to indicate on the website which fixtures had been changed and the reasons why. This has been implemented and will be continued in future.

5. Rule Clarification and AGM:

During the season I was occasionally asked to judge certain issues such as match cancellations and players playing down. In some cases the existing League Rules covered the situation, in others compromises were made that essentially reflected the sporting nature and spirit of the league.

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However, I think that a little clarification of rules would be helpful.

A suggestion was made to use Internet Polls to review and amend League Rules but this was rejected. It is outside the League Constitution anyway so I will be raising these suggestions at the next AGM.

It was agreed that two Leagues Meetings per year are unnecessary so there will only be one in future – the AGM to be held in February.

6. Winter and Floodlit Leagues:

An ad-hoc committee in March decided that there was no reason to delay the process of arranging Winter and Floodlit League fixtures so forms were emailed in the middle of April with a target date of the 6th of May to agree the fixtures. This date was later decided to be unrealistic and was extended to the 16th of September.

My thanks to Sue Jelfs of Banbury West End and Adrian Taunton of Brackley for arranging the Floodlit fixtures as this task required specialist knowledge that I did not possess.

Unfortunately 4 teams had to withdraw their entries before the season started:

Marsh Gibbon 1 in Floodlit League Division 3
Banbury C in Winter League Division 3
Byfield D and Priors Marston B in Winter League Division 4

It's possible that the timing was too optimistic and this will be evaluated before the next round of fixture arrangements.

7. Summer League:

Congratulations to Brackley A – Champions of Division 1 with a clean sweep. 12 wins in 12 matches and 99 games to 9 is a fantastic performance.

Hook Norton E won't thank me for pointing out their own clean sweep though!

Here are the Champions, promoted and relegated teams:

Division 1

Champions - Brackley A
Runners-Up - Byfield A
Relegated - Kings Sutton A and Byfield B

Division 2

Winners - Brackley B
Runners-Up - Deddington A
Relegated - Middleton Cheney A and Kings Sutton B

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Division 3

Winners - Banbury West End C

Runners-Up - Deddington B

Relegated - Tysoe A and Byfield C

Division 4

Winners - Middleton Cheney B

Runners-Up - Kings Sutton C

Relegated - Banbury West End D and Harbury

Division 5

Winners - Middleton Cheney C

Runners-Up - Banbury West End E

Congratulations to all promoted teams and commiserations to the unfortunate teams that were relegated. The final tables are on the website

A survey is in place to determine whether Winners and Runners-Up want their Certificates posted or given out at the next AGM in February.

8. Finally:

Finally, I would like to thank everybody for their tolerance whilst I am learning what to do and the best ways to do it. I've had quite a few positive messages of encouragement which have been very welcome.

My role is purely that of a support function to enable the smooth and trouble free running of your league competitions and to that end I welcome any ideas or suggestions that will make life better for you.

Thanks again



Nick Adams
League Secretary - Banbury Tennis Leagues